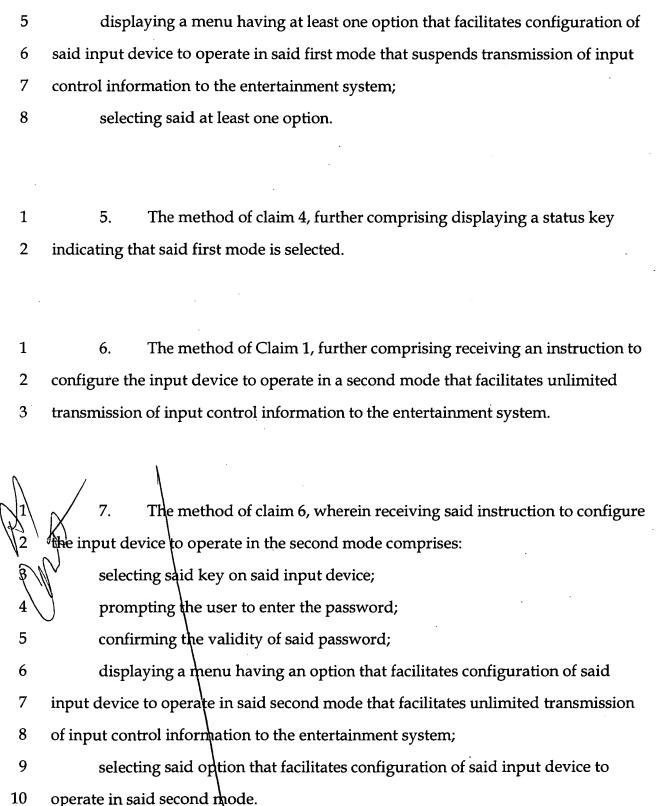
What is claimed is:

$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	1. A method for controlling the transmission of control information to an
7 /5)	input device in an entertainment system, comprising:
\mathcal{J}_{3}	receiving programming data associated with a broadcast channel
4	displaying a show associated with the channel;

- 5 configuring an input device to operate in a first mode that suspends
- 6 transmission of input control information entered via said input device, to the
- 7 entertainment system.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a message 2 indicating that said input device is configured to operate in the first mode.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said message is displayed for a predetermined period of time.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the input device
- 2 comprises:
- 3 selecting a key on said input device;
- 4 prompting the user to enter a password;



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1	8.	The method of claim 7, further comprising displaying a message
2	indicating th	nat said input device is configured to operate in the second mode.
1	9.	The method of claim 1, further comprising terminating transmission of
2	all input cor	ntrol information to said entertainment system entered via said input
3	device.	
4	10.	The method of claim 9, further comprising reactivating transmission of
5	all input cor	ntrol information to said entertainment system entered via said input
6.	device upon	selection of a dedicated key on said input device.
	ſ	
1	11	An entertainment system comprising:
V2	a dist	play monitor; and
13/	`	adcast receiver coupled to the display monitor, the broadcast receiver
	including	
5	bundars	a front-end unit capable of receiving programming data associated
6	with	a show broadcast for viewing on the display monitor,
7	• With	
		a memory, and
8		tral processing unit coupled to the memory, the central processing
9	•	l to receive\programming data associated with a broadcast channel,
10	•	processing unit to execute software to display a show associated with
11	the channel,	said central processing unit to execute software to configure an

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- 12 input device to operate in a first mode that suspends transmission of input
- 13 control information entered via said input device, to the entertainment system.
- 1 12. The entertainment system of claim 11, wherein the central processing
- 2 unit further executes software to display a message indicating that said input device
- 3 is configured to operate in the first mode.
- 1 13. The entertainment system of claim 12, wherein said message is
- 2 displayed for a predetermined period of time.
 - 14.\ The entertainment system of claim 11, wherein configuring the input device comprises:
 - selecting a key on said input device;
 - prompting the user to enter a password;
- 5 displaying a menu having at least one option that facilitates configuration of
- 6 said input device to operate in said first mode that suspends transmission of input
- 7 control information to the entertainment system;
- 8 selecting said at least one option.
- 1 15. The entertainment system of claim 14, wherein said central processing
- 2 unit further executes software to display a status key indicating that said first mode
- 3 is selected.

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1	16. The entertainment system of claim 11, wherein said central processing
2	unit further receives an instruction to configure the input device to operate in a
3	second mode that facilitates unlimited transmission of input control information to
4	the entertainment system.

17. The entertainment system of claim 16, wherein receiving said instruction to configure the input device to operate in the second mode comprises: selecting said key on said input device; prompting the user to enter the password; confirming the validity of said password; displaying almenu having an option that facilitates configuration of said input device to operate in said second mode that facilitates unlimited transmission of input control information to the entertainment system; selecting said option that facilitates configuration of said input device to operate in said second mode.

18. The entertainment system of claim 17, wherein said central processing unit further displays a message indicating that said input device is configured to operate in the second mode.

- 1 19. The entertainment system of claim 11, wherein transmission of all
- 2 input control information to said entertainment system entered via said input device
- 3 is terminated.
- 1 20. The entertainment system of claim 19, wherein transmission of all
- 2 input control information to said entertainment system entered via said input device
- 3 is reactivated, upon selection of a dedicated key on said input device.